

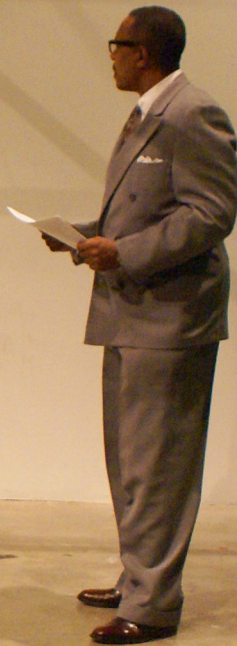
TALON



60th Issue

Spring/Summer 2012

Avila Profiles



The Diamond Issue

From One to Another

Friends,

Welcome to the Diamond issue of the Talon. A diamond signifies sixty years, and this is our 60th issue. We are proud to present an expanded form, giving you not only our regular material, but adding a special “Avila Profiles” section as well.

“Avila Profiles” gives you some insight on some of the familiar (and not so familiar) faces on campus. One of those faces is Dr. J. Anthony Snorgrass.

Over the last seven years, under Dr. Snorgrass’ leadership, the Talon has seen many transformations and won numerous awards. But even before that time, it began as a sort of student newsletter, evolving into the Avila Examiner newspaper. To stay current and fresh, it changed its name to the Talon, and then progressed to a tabloid format. It’s most recent update has given the Talon a completely new look, changing into what you now see, the Talon magazine.

That is why the man who graces our cover is Dr. Snorgrass. While we don’t often draw attention to our Talon staff, I wanted to dedicate this issue to the man who has helped make the Talon what it is today. Though I have only known him a short time, he has taught me much and I am privileged to call him not only my professor, but my friend. The photo, a shot taken by him, shows but a glimpse of who he is.

So take a look inside to learn more about Dr. Snorgrass and the many others we have had a chance to talk to.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Carroll



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Editorial Policy

The Talon News Magazine is produced by students of Avila University. Opinions expressed are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of the Talon News Staff, the Trustees, administration, faculty, or staff of the University.

The Talon News Magazine encourages letters to the editor. These may be submitted electronically or in writing and should include the writer's name, address, and telephone numbers for verification purposes.

Letters can be mailed to the Talon News Magazine Editor, Avila University, 11901 Wornall Road, Kansas City, MO 64145. The Talon reserves the right to edit letters for reasons of space, clarity, or inappropriate language. Copies of the Talon News Network Operational Guidelines may be requested by writing to the above referenced address.

TAIWAN IS AN INDEPENDENT COUNTRY AND I AM TAIWANESE

By Jason Cheng

Most of the time people ask me, “Where are you from?” and I say, “I’m from Taiwan.” “Is Taiwan part of China?!” No. Taiwan is an independent country.

March of 1996, China launched missiles targeting near the ocean of Taiwan, trying to influence the outcome of the presidential election by a show of force. Many people living in Taiwan started to fear war. The stock market began to drop and people were fearful that the currency would change if taken over by the Communists of China.

Near the end of the presidential election, the United States sent out warships to the ocean between Taiwan and China to make sure that China would not use force on Taiwan. In 2000, before the presidential election, China told Taiwan that there would be war if the pro-independent democrat party won the election and announced that Taiwan should be independent.

Many people seek their way out of Taiwan. This is a big part of the reason why my family wanted to move to United States of America. No one wants to live their life under fear of invasion at anytime by a bigger power, like communist China.

Taiwan should be independent and recognized by the world, not only known as another province of China.

A long time ago, there was a civil war. The two parties were against each other. One of them called Communist, the other called Nationalist. The war was fought for many years because each party wanted to have authority over the mainland and to control everything. The Nationalists lost and were forced to move to a small island named Taiwan.

In recent years, China has started to announce to Taiwan that it is part of China, and that Taiwan is not an independent country. They want their island back. This angers the Taiwanese they were forced their by China and now China wants it back. It makes no sense.

From my point of view, Taiwan should be considered as a member of the United Nation because it fulfills many criteria. According to the United Nations, “Membership in the United Nations is open to all other peace-loving states which accept the obligations contained in the present Charter and, in the judgment of the organization, are able and willing to carry out these obligations.”



Taiwan is not part of China.

Taiwan does not like China using force against their alliances. Taiwan would rather talk than fight. Fighting will not solve the question. Peaceful talks are their purpose.

Taiwan was once a member of the United Nations, but after China joined, they said Taiwan was part of their country, and somehow, Taiwan was kicked out of the U.N.

The United Nations doesn't realize that the products made in China are cheap and fake. Taiwan has a permanent population of over 23 million, larger than many other members of the United Nations. In addition, Taiwan has a government which was peacefully changed from nationalist to democratic in 2000, and the government of Taiwan is sovereign over its entire territory (Yu). Therefore, Taiwan should be

independent, as all the criteria were fulfilled from the United Nations and States of Its Rights.

Taiwan used to be a part of mainland China before the Chinese Civil War, but Taiwan is not part of China now. Taiwan is a peace-loving country and does not wish to be under Communist China's control. Communist China will not let Taiwan become independent because of the many economic benefits, power, and land it would lose.

Currently, Taiwan has its own government, leadership, economic structure, currency, and military force; it is distinctly separate from mainland China. It already operates like its own country. It only lacks the world's recognition and for China to peacefully set it free.

Photo taken from utexas.edu

It's Tornado Season!



By Jackie Wachia

Though it is easy to welcome the warmer weather and longer days that spring brings along with it, there are certain aspects of spring that make some grow weary. For anyone living within the central United States, with spring comes tornado season. Tornado watches and warnings are so frequent throughout Tornado Alley at this time that people sometimes begin to disregard alerts, thinking it is simply yet another false-alarm. For anyone that has been through a tornado, however, they know not to joke around with Mother Nature.

Shonna Black, the mother of current AU freshman Olivia Black, knows first-hand about the dangers that tornadoes have to offer. On April 26, 1991, Shonna was living in

Andover, KS with her then-husband and young son, Harrison. It was just another spring evening coming home to cook dinner after work until, at approximately 5:00 p.m., her world literally got turned upside down. An F5 tornado dropped down and tore through Andover, killing 24 people and leaving hundreds injured.

Thankfully, Shonna and her family, including her dog that she made it a priority to rescue, made it out safely. Unfortunately, their home was not as lucky. At the time, they were living in a duplex and, after the storm took its toll, the only thing remaining of their home was the retaining wall that separated their living quarters from the neighbor's. The living room, both bedrooms, and garage were all gone.

Thankfully, Shonna and her family were prepared. In case of any potential storms, they had stored water and blankets in the crawl space under their home. The small and narrow crawl space was their saving grace: they ended up laying low there while the storm obliterated their home above. She reflects feeling a sense of stillness in the air during the tornado unlike anything she had ever felt before or after those moments. Though the loss of their home and belongings was unfortunate, Shonna points out that they were “more concerned about being alive than any destruction that may occur.” She goes on to say more about the effects that the experience has left on her life:

“I now have much respect for tornadoes and what God can do with wind. After 20+ years, this time of the year still gets to me. I get antsy



when the weather starts to act up. I do not joke around with weather alerts; I’m not a storm chaser, I cooperate, go straight to the basement, and pray for our safety.”

In talking about tornado season, it would be unfit not to mention the upcoming 1 year anniversary since the Joplin tornado that occurred on May 22 of last year. This EF 5 tornado claimed 161 lives, ranking as the seventh most deadly tornado



recorded in United States history. Like Shonna, Max Mammele, a freshman theatre major at Avila, is a tornado survivor. Max hails from Joplin and was in the heart of the storm last May. As he was driving home from his high school graduation, Max got caught in the midst of the tornado. He tried his best to speed home to safety, but there was torrential rain and the wind was simply too much. In a frantic and dire situation, his best option was to park under an overpass to take cover. Still in his graduation gown, Max crouched down with his hands over his head and waited. He sat in his vehicle as a variety of debris including branches and tar continually crashed into and embedded itself in the body and windshield of his 1989 Jaguar. He said minutes felt like hours as he waited. Finally, conditions lightened, and Max was lucky to be alive.

Unfortunately, one of his classmates whom he had just graduated with had not been so lucky. Will Norton, a Joplin senior, had been driving

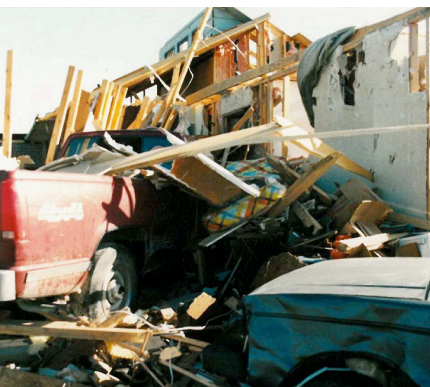
home from graduation in his H3 Hummer with his father when suddenly a gust of wind sucked him through the sunroof of his vehicle. His father tried to hold him down, tearing his bicep and breaking bones within his arms in the process (he broke 15 bones throughout his body altogether), but his efforts could not compete.

Frankly, Max is very fortunate to have survived the frightening conditions. The experience is one that has made an impact on his life forever; he realizes now how quickly life can be stripped from us and strives to live each day to the fullest.

The experiences of Shonna Black and Max Mammele are very humbling stories indeed. Spawned from powerful thunderstorms, tornadoes can cause fatalities and devastate a neighborhood in seconds. Next time tornado alerts flash across the television screen, think twice about blowing them off.

Photos were given to us by Shonna Black. Photo #1 is the duplex Shonna and her family were living in. #2 is a sky view of Andover after the tornado. #3 A rainbow that appeared after the destruction. #4 Two trucks thrown into a building.

To find out more about how to stay safe, go to weather.com and search tornado safety.



The End of Life

The old saying goes that it is just a game.

By Austin Stockard

Just a game? For many athletes, the sport that they love is more than some silly game. The respected sport they play is a way of life. It is a passion that most athletes have been doing since they were children. It is an obsession that you think about day and night.

When most athletes aren't on the field or court, they are watching Sports Center religiously. Coach K once said, "The love of the game is in my heart, which spreads to the blood which I bleed. The passion of playing is in my skin, which is shed when I

sweat. Playing isn't something that you do, it's a part of you."

For many athletes, they live and die with every play, every win or loss, and they can't wait for the next game. What happens when there are no more games? No more practices left? How do they go on living a normal life with no sports in it? As a rule, writers for the Talon are not encouraged to write about themselves, but this is a little too personal for me not to involve myself and is voluntary.

Growing up, all I knew was



basketball. My father was an All-American at Hogan High school and a four year player at UMKC, so my destiny was chosen before I was born. As an omen of things to come, my dad put a goal in my room, and I fell in love. Like many other athletes, there wasn't a time when I wasn't playing a sport. Summer was filled with baseball and AAU basketball tournaments. Then fall would roll in and I would put my pads on. The second the season was over I would start basketball again.

After my sophomore year, I decided I was going to focus on basketball. Luckily, Coach Hall was dumb enough to offer me a scholarship to play here at Avila. After four years of hard work, I no longer have any more practices or games left in me.

The second the horn sounded on my career, I cried like I had just received news that I was going to die. It was a pain that I had never felt before. What was I going to do now that basketball was no longer a part of my life? The only things you can do are move on and hope for a successful future.

Through sports, I have loved and enjoyed every second of being an athlete. I have made great friends and have an amazing relationship with my father who coached me up until high school. The game allowed me to go to college and hopefully get a degree. I enjoyed my time playing at Avila and meeting so many incredible people. I hope you have enjoyed me as much as I have enjoyed you.

Those who know me know that I am



writing this article with a smile on my face. If this is the last article I ever write for the Talon, I want everyone to know I love them. It has been a pleasure writing for this paper and going to this school. Going to Avila has made us family and I wish all of you the best.



ALL STAR SUMMER

By Emilee Bickelman

This summer will be hot with many events in Kansas City and one of those events is the All-Star game. The Kansas City Royals will be hosting an “All-Star Summer” July 6-10. The week will be full of many All-Star events including:

July 6-10: All-Star FanFest

July 8: All-Star Sunday
All-Star Game Charity 5K & Fun Run
All-Star Futures Game
All-Star Legends and Celebrity Softball Game

July 9: All-Star Workout Day
All-Star Home Run Derby

July 10: All-Star Red Carpet Show
All-Star Game

The Royals’ left-fielder, Alex Gordon, will be the MLB All-Star FanFest Spokesperson. The All-Star FanFest is considered the World’s Largest Interactive Baseball Theme Park and it will be held at the Kansas City Convention Center. It is full of many interactive activities for everyone.

Tickets are available for \$25-30 so come out and have a good time with your family and friends.

The exciting event to look forward to is the All-Star Celebrity Softball Game. They will start announcing in about a month or so on who will be a part of this softball game. It is one of the top events that will be happening during this week along with the All-Star Game. This will be the 83rd All-Star Game. The last time it was in Kansas City was July 24, 1973 and the Nation League won 7-1. This All-Star Game is sold out, but is scheduled for 7 p.m. and televised on FOX.



Avila Has a Band?!

By Colbi Howser

When you think of football and basketball games, you think of the players, fans, and most importantly, the game. But what some people don't think of is the music. The band is a big part of the game. Playing during time outs, half time, and before the game to keep the crowd interested in what's happening is their job.

Without a band, the fans miss out on the whole experience of the game. That's why about 2 years ago, Avila decided to start the Athletic Band program designed to let students who have at least a middle school or beyond ability to join.

Athletic Band Director Patrick McCarty would love a big pep band at Avila, but for now he's being patient. "It's a new program, and we're trying to get the word out to new students and upper classmen who haven't heard about the program," says McCarty. Being a new program at a small school can

be tough. With a small population of students, it's hard to find players who actually have the requirements to be a part of the group.

Like sports, many would think being in a program that plays at most of the home football and basketball games, plus time for practice would take up a lot of time. games for football and basketball, plus practice would take up a lot of time. Not for McCarty's kids. "This program, being new, doesn't really take up that much time," says McCarty, "I'm still working on my Masters and I know how difficult it is to manage school and extracurricular activities, so I respect their time."

Starting a new program can be hard, but getting the word out and finding members who actually enjoy what they're putting their time into can be very rewarding. McCarty finished by saying, "I enjoy my time with the kids, and I'm pretty sure they feel the same."





By Brittany Watson

On the campus of Avila University, there are over 50 clubs and organizations. One of them is the Wellness Organization, directed by Avila University's Registered Nurse, Carol Frevert.

The main focus of this organization is to engage students at Avila University in the promotion of wellness. This includes enhancing health, and developing healthy choices, mentally and physically. There are many programs offered to expand these qualities, such as wellness forums, classes, activities, and events on campus and locally.

The Wellness Organization works with other clubs and organizations, departments, and schools to expand the knowledge of these groups and to provide activities for students on campus. One organization they team up with is PEACH, Peers Educating Avila about Counseling and Health. The main idea of these two organizations is to present a comprehensive outlook for the community of the school.

I got the chance to meet with Nurse Carol to discuss the top five ways to stay well. The first way is rest. Many times students don't receive

enough sleep causing their body to shut down. Performance in class can become poor and attention spans can be altered.

The second way is eating well. If students are giving their bodies the proper nutrients and cutting back on junk foods, their immune systems can stay strong, preventing weight gain and increasing performance.

The third way is drinking lots of water. It is extremely important to stay hydrated. Many times dehydration can lead to other serious issues including changes in the body, kidney failure, and other life threatening issues.

The fourth way is washing your hands. Nowadays there are countless

bacteria and diseases. Not washing your hands can lead to different infections, sicknesses, and outbreaks. Washing your hands will not only keep you healthy and safe, but also the people at Avila University.

Finally, the fifth way is seeking help if you're sick. Many times students will put off a cold or a stomach ache and ignore it. It is so important to treat the first signs of sickness. This will prevent feeling terrible and allowing the illness to become worse.

"Health Services provide health care, health education, and referrals to other resources which can help students deal with illnesses and injuries, maintain physical health, and improve their health," says Carol Frevert, RN.



Failure, an Option?

The early exit for USA and its brightest stars.

By Josh Grimes

LIVESTRONG Sporting Park has been host to several games and events; during its latest and grandest event, the outcome was anything but expected. The Olympics is the world's event, to find the best of the best in each of its events—a battle of countries to crown themselves champion. While many of the sports see the greatest athletes from their respected country, there is one sport on the Olympic stage that sees only the mediocre.

The men's soccer event during the summer games is looked at as kind of a joke. The greatest players in the world are getting paid millions of dollars during club play and tend not to bother with their volunteer status for their country's national team, leaving the lackluster players to be fashioned into a national team and thrown into the mix.

Qualifying for the Olympics is easy for most countries, although for the U.S. men's under age 23 national team, it was anything but. The United States is home to some of the best up and coming players. The level of play in the MLS (Major League Soccer) has risen tremendously within the last 5 years luring some of the greatest names in soccer—David Beckham, Rafael Marquez, and Thierry Henry--to play in the United States.

The U-23 team who was destined for Olympic glory finished third in Group A of CONCACAF Olympic Qualifying. Despite playing in our local LIVESTRONG Sporting Park, Canada and El Salvador advanced. Beginning with their shocking 2-0 loss to Canada and ending with their 3-3 tie to El Salvador, the United States accumulated 1 out of a possible 6 points, sending them home after



final whistle. Under Coach Caleb Porter, failure was never thought to be an option.

Porter has enjoyed success for his artistic style in college soccer at Akron University, but received a harsh whiplash from critics when his style failed to translate to the international game during the qualifying tournament.

He even attempted to make the event easier on himself by choosing players from his university that had

played his system before so that complete reconstruction would not be necessary. People thought he would be the ideal man for the job, but as we saw in the qualifier, he was not.

The harsh reality fell on the strategist from Ohio during the post-game press conference. Having failed with so many pieces of the puzzle placed in front of him seemed like the greatest distress; fantastic young players in their prime, a home stadium qualifier, and a qualifying pool most people would wish for.



By Quiana Haney

Am I Ready?

Class of 2012. I'm sure all college graduating seniors are elated it's time for graduation; time to join the work force and the real world. All the work you put into being a college student has paid off. The stress of passing tests, writing papers, and completing projects has now come to an end. Congratulations class of 2012.

I'm not sure I feel the same way. As a graduating senior, I have never been so afraid in my life. Being a student is easy; you know what to expect. You know what classes you have, what

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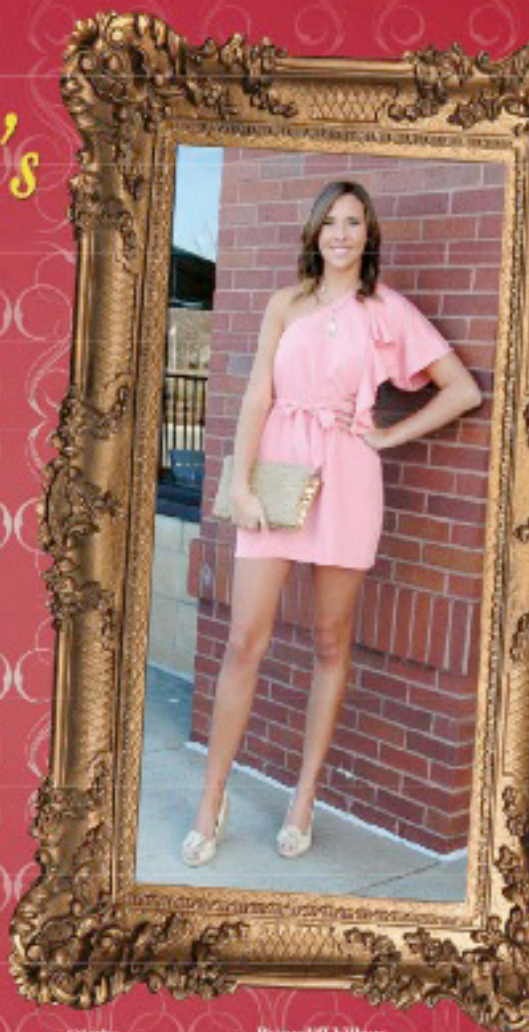
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Compliment
your Style!

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assignments are due, where to go, and when to be there. I have the same schedule every day.

Now that the time has come for me to walk across the stage, I'm not so excited. I'm sure some are wondering what's wrong with me. I should be happy and excited to be graduating! You may be right, but whenever I think about it, I get butterflies in my stomach. Going into the real world is a scary feeling for me. I don't know what to expect; nothing is set in stone.

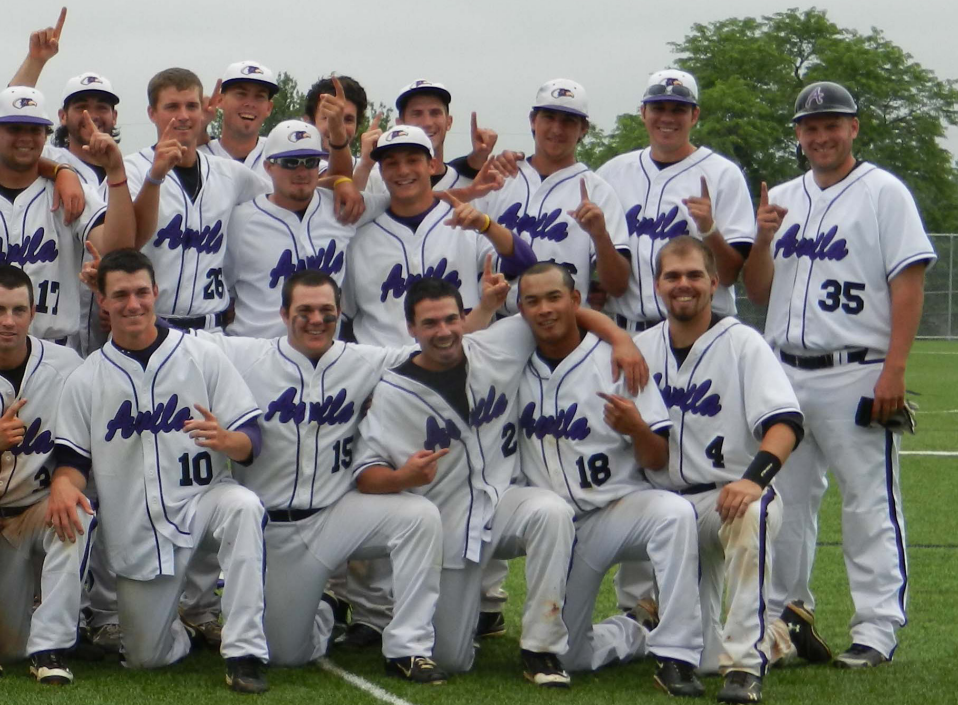
I guess when it all boils down, the big question is, "Am I ready?"

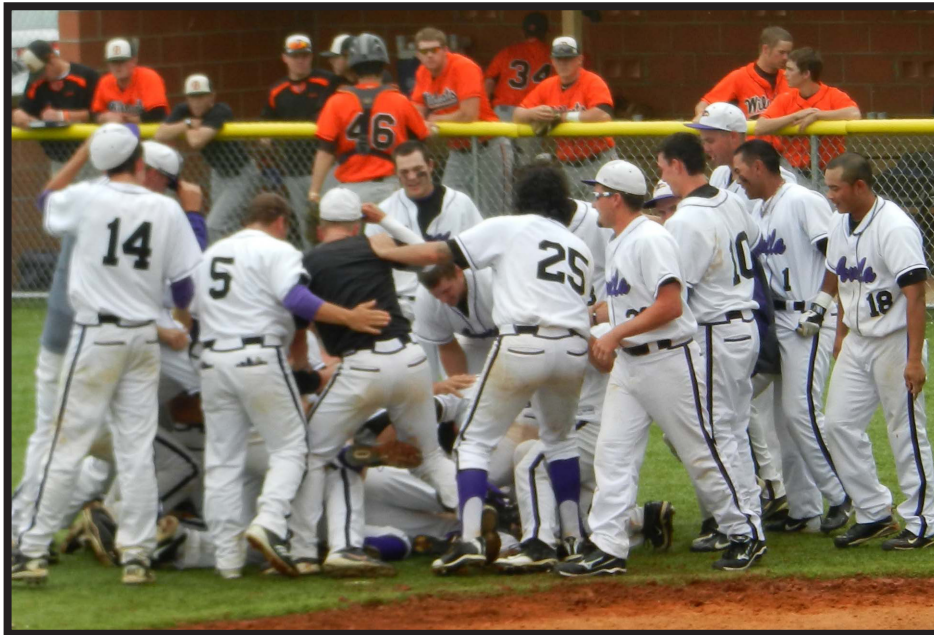
Am I ready to work a nine-to-five job? Am I ready for deadlines and presentations in front of corporate executives? Am I ready to be a working, productive citizen? As I type and think about what the next step is to this chapter in my life, the butterflies in my stomach have multiplied.

So I think I will end this by saying I have no more time to think about if I'm ready, after graduation—diploma in hand—that's it. Ready or not, life is at my front door and I will open and invite it in. I have accomplished one of my goals and I will succeed in this thing called "Life."



Congratulations to Our Baseball Team!!





Conference Champs!



Congratulations to Our
Women's Golf Team!
Good Luck at Nationals!



The Big 60

An Interview with Dr. J. Anthony Snorgrass

By Liz Carroll

Dr. J. Anthony Snorgrass, Associate Professor of Communications joined the School of Visual & Communication Arts full-time in January of 2005. While working professionally in the Corporate Advertising, Government, and Nonprofit arenas, Snorgrass served as an Adjunct Faculty member at Avila beginning in 2000 following faculty appointments at KU, Park, Alabama State, and Alabama A & M Universities.

Dr. Snorgrass has served as the Talon Faculty Advisor since joining AU in 2005. He has been credited with transforming both the look and thrust of the Talon, insisting that the Talon's many print, video, and electronic channels should reflect the broad tenor of student views and perspectives on the issues affecting them. He has refused to be interviewed previously, insisting that the Talon should be focused on student voices and not his. However, he jokingly agreed that he would submit to an interview in the Talon's 50th edition, probably thinking that we would forget.

Well, we're 10 issues late, but I managed to call him out on this

promise. I caught up with Dr. Snorgrass (aka Dr. J.) in his campus office on the eve of him being given the Avila Chapter of the National Society of Leadership and Success' Excellence in Teaching Award.

Our conversation went something like this.

LC – Hey Dr. J! Heard you were getting an award from the NSLS Chapter here at Avila. How do you feel about that?

Dr.J - Honestly, I'm not a big-on-awards guy. I often shy away from personal accolades, platitudes, and KUDOS. I think the real reward and recognition for my contributions is having a hand in the growth and success of students as they transform from student to professionals and then to see them impose changes on the environments in which they work, live, and play.

That being said, of all the professional and community recognitions I've been lucky enough to receive, this one is highly cherished because it comes from the students themselves rather than my peers, community leaders, or professional colleagues. I am



truly honored and humbled by the recognition.

The award is also significant from a personal standpoint. I come from a long line of educators and a family that believes in life-long learning. One of the things that I keep on my desk is the plate from my late father's award when he was recognized as Professor of the Year at Florida A&M University in 1986. He was an Associate Professor of Journalism. He has certainly been an inspiration for me.

LC – So what are some of the highlights of your work with the Talon?

Dr.J - Wow.... There have been so many. First, the Talon students have been handsomely acknowledged by the Missouri Collegiate Media

Association as their work has received numerous awards during my time with them, and was selected "Best Overall Publication" in 2010, plus annually receives 1st place awards for writing, design, and advertising. This is certainly testament to the commitment and hard work of the students. I am always proud of them!

LC – It surely hasn't been all good! Any challenging moments?

Dr.J - Yes indeed, there have been a few contentious moments like the time the entire Talon staff threatened to boycott when I first took over as advisor and imposed mandatory meetings; and the time the "Zipper" Issue was pulled from the stands and the ensuing national media attention it received. I once was forced to remove the EIC and Copy Editor

who were unsuccessful in leading the team, and of course the criticisms of the quality of the writing; the often missed deadlines; and of the typographical errors... but to me these form the lesson plans of real world, real-time learning experiences that I feel are important to student development and growth.

These mishaps, errors, and omissions help students realize that they must be accountable for the work they produce. Unlike essays and term papers where corrections are made but may never see the light of day beyond the student and professor, Talon work is learning in full public view. I believe, although tough, these lessons have proven valuable and rewarding. I only need to look at the many career successes of former Talon leaders as evidence of this.



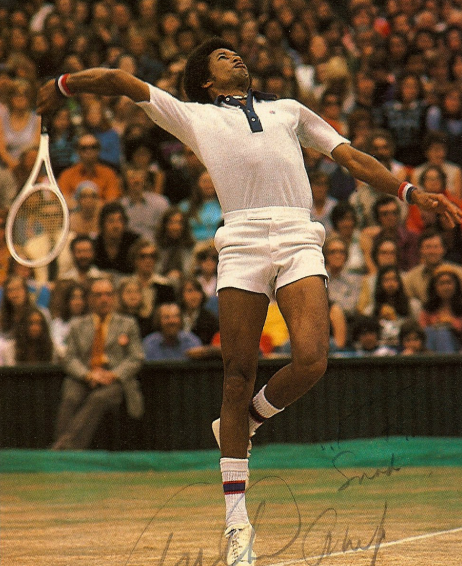
LC – ...Sounds like there have been quite a few battles.

Dr.J – Actually I feel that most of the consternation has been the result of competing expectations for the Talon. It is typical in a University environment for the Administration, faculty, and students to have different views. The students will have their view of what -in our case - the Talon is supposed to be.... (pause) and they are not always complimentary and oft times conflicting. Ultimately, everyone has some skin in the game and deserves to be heard out... but in the end this is a student run and produced publication.

LC – Why do you so dislike the Talon being called a newspaper?

Dr.J – First and foremost, the Talon is no longer a newspaper in format, content, or distribution. Yes, it may have once been a newspaper, but I think the tag has stuck as an administrative and conversational convenience. The Talon is a magazine with extended digital and social media outlets including Facebook, Twitter, Youtube, UStream, Blogger, ISSU, and its web presence at Talon360.net. It has a stronger reach than the print edition ever has.

In print form, it's more a compendium of student opinions, perspectives, and positions splintered with the occasional report about something that has occurred on campus. But a monthly publication cannot deliver news in a quality



manner anymore given the speed of digital communications. Plus, traditional newspapers are dying, and the Internet delivery model is hastening the deathblow. Just ask any student when was the last time they read (or even held) a newspaper? I'm sure the answer will not be surprising.

LC – Okay... let me turn the tables a bit. Let me ask some questions about you and your feelings about life..

Dr.J - Yes, I'm familiar with those questions and the key element is the surprising nature of them. They are designed to get the interviewee off those canned responses and make them a little uncomfortable at times, but that's what makes for a truly revealing interview. Ok, I'm ready... bring it!

LC – What is your idea of perfect happiness?

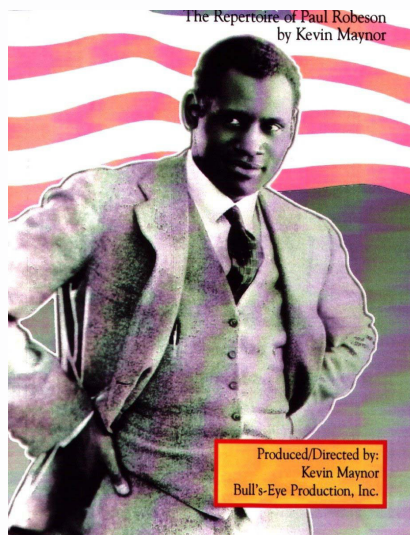
Dr.J - Waking up, getting up, and pursuing whatever fancies me at the moment. I love having a lot of things going at the same time and often double book appointments so I can juggle them. My happiness is being hyperactive without the disorder. I think the proper adjective is hyper-kinetic, always needing something to do!

LC – What is your greatest fear?

Dr.J - Disappointment. The feeling that I'm leaving something unexplored or an opportunity on the table.

LC – What historical figure do you most identify with?

Dr.J - There are several but they are all renaissance people – refusing to be pigeonholed or typecast. In terms of contemporary figures, Arthur Ashe is my man! But historically, I



find Paul Robeson's story the most fascinating – singer, recording artist, actor, athlete, scholar, civil rights advocate, and outspoken political activist.

LC – Which living person do you most admire?

Dr.J - Muhammad Ali, followed by Barack Obama... for different reasons. One works outside the system, the other inside.

LC – What trait do you most deplore in others?

Dr.J - Inconsiderateness!!!!
(Especially when I am guilty of it).

LC – What about in students?

Dr.J - Grade-seekers! Those who forego the opportunity to really learn,

explore, and discover, and instead opt to do only what is required for a certain grade. When I was hiring in the business world, I would always lean towards the highly exposed “C” student over the “constrained” A student, but the highly adventurous “A” student is the most desirable.

LC – What trait do you most deplore in yourself?

Dr.J - It hurts that my drive for perfection prevents me from truly enjoying the pleasures of my accomplishments. I'm always looking to improve and I am my worst critic. I've got to learn how to take a pat on the back from others, or a bow to an audience, smell some roses, and relish in my achievements.

LC – What is your greatest extravagance?

Dr.J - Technology... tools over toys though. I don't do games.

LC – What is most played on your iPod?

Dr.J – Most of my music is in the cloud so I can get it on my iPad, iPod, iPhone, or MacBook. Lately though, I've been getting a heavy dose of Q-Tip and Public Enemy. Interesting that I don't have a Pandora station for either. I must change that tonight.

LC – What songs in your cloud would others find surprising?

Dr.J - 3-way tie between Beethoven's 5th ; Lionel Richie's Jesus is Love; and Johnny Cash with Willie Nelson



– “Ain’t It Funny?”

LC – What are your favorite apps?

Dr. J - Dropbox, Flipboard, Sling Player, and Editions

LC – Do you prefer Facebook, Google+, Twitter, or LinkedIn?

Dr.J - Personal Use = Facebook in combination with Twitter (my hash tag grasshopper2), Business = Facebook & BeHance

LC – Of the things in your pocket, which could you not go without?

Dr.J - My iPhone. I’ve left my billfold, id, and money at home and not been compelled to go back and get them, but if I left my iPhone, I would turn around in a heartbeat. It is the closest I’ve ever been to having the one “swiss army knife” tool in my pocket – what can’t you do with it? Better... question, what can’t I do without it. I guess leave home....

LC – Best Reads?

Dr.J – Well (laughing), I don’t really read anymore, I “BREAD” (pronounced “breed). It’s a combination of browsing and reading. I browse until I find something that catches my attention and commands me to read it. That’s probably why I lean more to magazines & photo books that invite more browsing “Evelyn Wood style” than reading. I don’t write anymore either. I “Prite”, my crude form of writing and printing simultaneously.



LC – Where do you go for inspiration?

Dr.J – Now this may appear to be quite contradictory given that I am such an advocate of e-books, but I find solace in bookstores, especially used bookstores. 2nd handbooks. I hate that Borders closed!

LC – Where do you go for recreation?

Dr.J – The tennis courts... I hate that clay courts have all but disappeared from the KC area.

LC – Where do you do your best work?

Dr.J - In my sanctuary, aka the media bunker in my home studio... late nights and before sunrise! I find sunrises much more compelling than

sunsets. Symbolically, I guess I like beginnings rather than ends.

LC – What is your most prized personal accomplishment?

Dr.J - Of course, I would say my Doctorate, and I did complete the MS 150 bike ride, but I guess a close second is my published photo e-books (it's great to see your name in a Barnes & Noble search).

LC – What are your most treasured possessions?

Dr.J - My reputation (hear that branding students); my mint condition first issue of Esquire magazine c1933; my 1955 Chevy pick-up (it's been ignored and needs a lot of work now); a 1950's Rolleiflex Twin lens Camera. I guess I treasure books too, especially my signed copy of the "The Ways of White Folks" by Langston Hughes in 1944, "The Mis-education of the Negro" by Carter G.

Woodson, and an original illustrated copy of "The Life & Works of Paul Lawrence Dunbar" – all family heirlooms.

LC – Do you collect anything else?

Dr.J – I used to collect vintage fountain pens, watches, cufflinks, and ties. Plus mountains of books!!!! Downsizing them all now! Only keeping the truly valuable and sentimental. Collecting can complicate decision-making and certainly compromises mobility.

LC – Speaking of ties, you seem to always be in a suit and tie – any reason?

Dr.J – Although it may appear a little unusual on a college campus, I have always viewed the suit and tie as my uniform. I hale from the world of business and this is the expected manner of dress. When I'm teaching





and lecturing, I consider myself to be in theatre (more like the military than the performing arts, but probably a little of both). And for me, the uniform symbolizes professionalism as well as that its time to get down to business, nothing casual about it.

LC – What do you most dislike about work?

Dr.J - Meetings.. especially those where no decisions are made except when the next meeting will be or the ones that seem to expand to fill up the allotted time even when business has been completed! When I was in the corporate world I used to “cost-out” each meeting and report how much was spent on salaries, equipment, and lost productivity. The cost of meetings is astonishing! This

prompted me to conduct stand-up meetings that would almost instantly reduce the time consumed in meeting by over 70%. People tend to get to the point when they have to stand up with nothing to lean on. Guess that’s why my desk is a stand up desk.

LC – Yes, your office is different, but cool!

Dr.J – Yes, it is eclectic. It reflects my personality and this is the way I like to work—cross platform with multiple projects in various states of completion surrounding me.

LC – What do you enjoy most about your job?

Dr.J – Well, the first thing is I don’t consider what I do a “job.” Yes it is hard work, but I view it more as an

occupation because I would probably do some of the same things even if I wasn't getting paid to do them (I don't want to give anyone any ideas though, faculty is grossly underpaid for what we do.) I do enjoy the inquisitive nature of students, which challenges me to stay on top of my game. I also enjoy the creative tension and energy of academe.

LC – The Avengers is premiering this weekend. Which superhero would you be?

Dr.J – (chuckles) I think it would be the “Undercover Brother”... here check out the movie poster.... have you seen the movie?

LC – No I haven't, but it sounds interesting. What is your motto?

Dr.J - Leave everything better than I find it...

LC – So, what's next for the Talon?

Dr.J - Blur is the name of the game now! With digital media, all the boxes have been removed and there are no more clear separations between print, broadcast, electronic, and social media channels. Digital has changed everything, especially the way in which content is both created and distributed. Despite my fondness for print, this medium may be giving way to on-demand delivery where the foundation becomes the ePub or Ezine very soon.

But, I expect that you will have quite a bit to do with the direction of the Talon as the new EIC, right? What

are your plans?

LC – Well we aren't going to an Ezine while I'm in charge. I love print too much to let it go. I plan on improving the quality of the writing and assuring that we have an open forum for expression of all students on campus. I want to return to the slogan I saw on a pre-Snorggrass issue of the Talon – “For us. By us.” But more on that in future issues, this interview is not about me.

Dr.J – Yeah, that's an old trick I learned in dealing with the media. Turn the table and try to get them talking about themselves. Glad you didn't fall for it.

LC – I'm better than that. Ok, now that we're back on track... What advice do you have for students who are hitting the work world?

Dr.J – Organizations need people who understand our new world technology and have a feel for creativity, consumer behavior, strategic thinking, and the ability to create consensus. No longer will one's career be boxed in one discipline. Transferable skills, flexibility, and adaptability are the keys to success.

LC – Well that's all I have for you. Thank you for your time, Dr. J. I enjoyed the conversation.

Dr.J – Well done, EIC! I think the Talon is in good hands. Here's to the next 60 issues, fist pump!



Sara G. is Just Your Average Woman

By Katie LaRose

Avila University draws in students from all over the world, and you never know who you might meet on campus.

Sara G. is a junior at Avila University. While she was born in Overland Park, Kansas, she considers herself to be not only an American citizen, but an Iranian citizen. When she was two, her family moved back to Iran for a couple years, but decided to return to the United States before Sara went to kindergarten. Up until this point, she had spoken only Persian and Arabic, because those are the languages of her culture.

After being immersed in public school in the United States, she learned English, one of the most difficult languages to learn. Today, her English is flawless, and you would never be able to tell from a cursory glance that she is a trilingual Iranian woman.

Sara explained that she is a Muslim, and that there are two different sects within the Islamic religion: Shi'ites and Sunnis. She is a Shi'ite, which is the least common of the two sects. No matter which sect, their culture is very family-oriented and this definitely shows in Sara's lifestyle. In her free time, she loves to spend time with her family and babysit her new niece. She also loves going to the movies and throws Persian parties on the weekends for her family and friends. You may be wondering what a Persian party is, but don't worry, I got the inside scoop.

A Persian party is very similar to a potluck. Everyone brings their own Persian dish, and they all share recipes. After getting the hookah burning, they spend the night socializing and having a good time. Don't worry, only pure tobacco here! The purpose of the Persian

party is so that everyone can spend time together, telling jokes and reminiscing about old family stories and how it is back home in Iran.

“We are all from [Iran], and it is nice to gather and talk about old times and our country,” says Sara. Her family travels to Tehran, the capital of Iran, twice a year to visit her and her husband’s family. Sara met her husband when she was 18 while on a trip to Iran. Shortly after, they decided to get married. She said, “A lot of people ask if it was an arranged marriage, and it definitely wasn’t. We are very happy together.”

When asked about her plans after graduation, she says that she wants to live in the United States a little while, start a family here, and then move back to Iran when her children are older. She loves her country and her culture, but she loves living in the United States too.

On the outside, it may seem like Sara has a lot going on in her life, but on the inside, she is just a normal, every day girl in college here at Avila University. Due to Sara’s cultural and religious preferences, her last name will not be shown.



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By Colbi Howser

We all hear those amazing life stories where a person comes from a poor, underprivileged family to making something of their life. Well this story is that and more.

Robin Nigro, Head Golf Coach here at Avila and also owner of the Robin Nigro Golf Academy hasn't always had the life she has now. Growing up, Robin didn't live in the most stable household like a normal child. When she was younger, her parents ran away with her and her siblings. After her grandparents found them, they raised her and her siblings as their own.

It hasn't been the easiest road for Robin, but she has made it the best she can. Born and raised in Kansas City, Robin is known as one of golf's finest female athletes. She qualified for the Women's U.S. Open in 1993, twice for the finals of the LPGA School, and finished fifth out of 200 contestants in 1996. The most surprising fact about Robin—she didn't take up golf until she was 23.

After tour school, Robin made her way back to Kansas City to start the Robin Nigro Golf Academy and help local golfers perfect their golf game

one swing at a time. Robin's academy has been one of Kansas City's finest golf schools for the last 10 years. Helping players young and old with any problem they may have, Robin and her team of top rated instructors can fix your swing in seconds to make it look like a pro's.

Last semester was Robin's first year as the Men's and Women's head golf coach here at Avila, and so far she has been doing an exceptional job. Waking up early for tournaments, letting her players practice for free at her range, and recruiting new players are all new to Robin, and she has found them to be harder than expected, but she's working on it. All Robin wants is to be the best coach to her players.

Owning your own company and being a full-time Coach for both men and women can really take a toll on a person, but with the support of her loving husband Mark and all her employees at the Academy, Robin has made an impact on every single golfer here at Avila. The team appreciates all the time and effort she has put into helping them become better athletes.

guided By Muses

By Holly Shelby

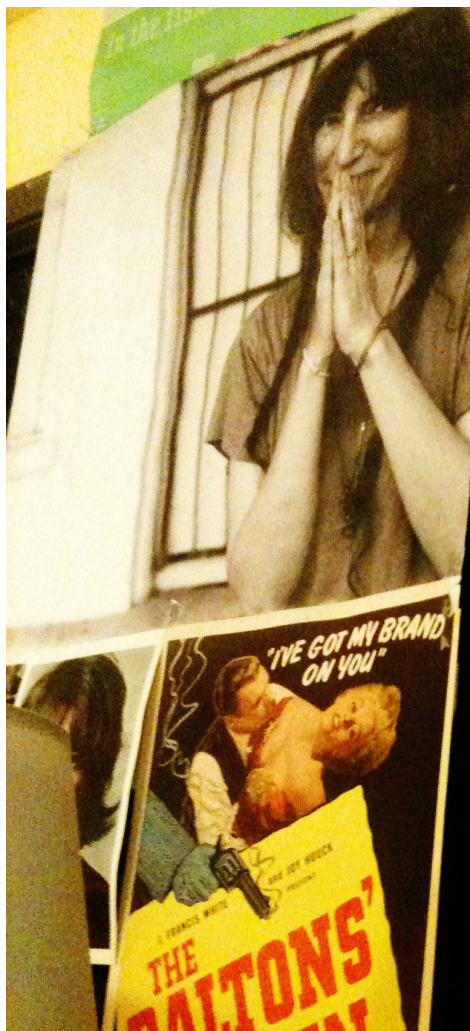
An award-winning video and filmmaker, writer, poet, painter, and Assistant Professor for the Department of Visual Arts and Communication at Avila University, Nicole Esquibel holds the highest value to her role. Esquibel teaches her students to solve problems with a positive attitude helping transform it into an institution that respects the entire community.

Growing up in downtown Denver, Colorado, she fell in love with two-dimensional art. As a painter, she wanted to make her canvas come to life and so began her career with video and film. She was introduced to the work of Stan Brakhage, an American non-narrative filmmaker, considered to be one of the most important figures of the 20th century experimental filmmakers. Brakhage was a Professor at Colorado University in Boulder at the time, and Esquibel saw that he was making his paintings come to life. This opened the doors of her life to film.

As an undergraduate at the University of Denver, one of her mentors Tony

Gault, Associate Professor in Media, Film, & Journalism Studies, turned her on to more of Brakhage's work and Maya Deren, one of the first few women experimental filmmakers of the time. Then, Nicole received a Graduate Teaching Fellowship from the University of Iowa where she received an MFA in Film and Video

Muses in Nicole's office (below)



Production. Esquibel moved to New York and worked for PBS and Danish Television. And though they were paying her quite well, she says, "I wanted to make my own films."

Her first film, *An Insidious Craving for Pleasure*, was chosen for the Telluride Film Festival, and Esquibel

spent an evening with Ang Lee, director of *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* (2000), *Brokeback Mountain* (2005).. Her graduate thesis film was also chosen for the Ann Arbor Film Festival. In 2001, Esquibel made the music video, "Holiday" and continued with *All I Want is You* (2003), *Hands of a Carpenter* (2003), *fracture* (2004), *Divided into One* (2005), and *Hush* (2007). She is currently finishing a video installation, *La Pucelle*, a post-punk re-telling of the trial of Joan of Arc.

"As soon as I am willing to take a chance and move forward, the door opens so I can go do what I am going to do," says Esquibel. She says, "I have muses that I follow, Lauren Bacall, John Lennon, PJ Harvey, and Ingmar Bergman, one of my favorite directors, that all guide me along the way." She was guided to Avila University five years ago. "Every day I bear witness to the enthusiasm, intelligence, and creativity of a new generation of filmmakers. The dedication and hard work of the students encourages me to become a more creative instructor. Each class and every student reminds me of my mentors and their resolute willingness to pass on their knowledge and expertise. My goal is to transmit my own passion and knowledge for filmmaking into an effective and enjoyable method that will inspire each student's artistic pursuits," says Esquibel.



Meet Dr. Leslie Smith

By Mohammed Al-Abdulla

Doing an interview with Dr. Leslie Smith was really interesting. I asked about her life and background. Moreover, I asked her about the things that she does for Avila University, as well as her future goals and plans.

First, I asked her about her life background. According to Dr. Smith, she did well in school because she wanted to go to college. After high school, she had to start thinking about how she could afford to pay for college since she came from a poor family. Her mom worked hard to give her money to go to college, all the while attending college herself. She took her studies seriously in college.

Early on she realized that she wanted to be a professor, so she needed to learn how to perform, as well as look for scholarships that would pay for her education. Dr. Smith said that the most important thing she did in life was sign up for the speech and debate team in high school. She learned how to speak publicly, make a good argument, think critically, think on her feet, and be entertaining. She



also traveled the country to compete nationally in debate and speech.

The second thing I asked about was her success at Avila University. When she first started to teach she taught at bigger universities, which helped her in knowing how to deal with students. For example, she let her students do their stuff by themselves. She gave her students lots of work even though they didn't like it. Dr. Smith said, "At the end of the day, all that work, if done well, will make them not only better in school, but also in their lives."

The last thing I asked about was her future goals and plans. She mentioned that one goal was to have her book published in a year or year and a half, and that she hopefully would be able to build up the women's program at Avila University.

AN INTERVIEW WITH TOBY CASHELL

By Jackie Wacha

The Dallavis Center is home to both the Thornhill Art Gallery and the classrooms where most Communication courses take place. Among the rooms in Dallavis is one dedicated specifically to the Talon Magazine. The Talon room is used as a newsroom for members to share ideas and work on stories.

Dr. Snorgrass, the faculty advisor for the Talon, decided the room needed some sprucing up, so he contacted a recent alumni, Mr. Toby Cashell, to take on the job. The result was a graffiti wall that has Avila painted in the center and a variety of paintings

surrounding it. I sat down with Toby to learn a little more about him and his project.

Q: When did you graduate?

A: I graduated in spring of 2010.

Q: Where are you from? What brought you to Avila?

A: I grew up in Osceola, MO. Football brought me to Avila originally. I started off as receiver, but got moved to strong safety my last two years.

Q: What was your major here at Avila University?



A: I got a BFA (Bachelor in Fine Arts) with a concentration in Graphic Design. I didn't declare my major until the end of my sophomore year because I wanted to avoid being among the statistic of students who change majors at least once throughout their college careers.

Q: Were you a member of the Talon?

A: Yes, I did quite a bit of work helping to edit the paper. I also wrote stories for a while when I had Dr. Snorgrass as a professor.

Q: Did you have a position on the Talon, or did you just help out as needed?

A: I worked more on an as-needed basis. My main focus was to help

out with the layout. When I was in Snorgrass' class, I not only wrote stories and poems, but did cartoons and illustrations from time to time.

Q: What are you doing for work these days?

A: I recently got a job through my brother-in-law working in North Dakota in the oil fields. The job is set to take two years, so that's how long I am signed on for. It's not exactly my major, but it gives me a chance to learn something new, plus I still try to do some graphic design related stuff on the side.

Q: How did your major and being a member of the Talon prepare you for your career?

A: Obviously having a degree in



graphic design doesn't help out when it comes to welding in the oil fields. Nonetheless, it gave me the preparedness to be able to handle myself in a professional situation. It opened up doors for me and helped me recognize opportunities.

Q: How did you get recruited for designing and completing the wall?

A: Dr. Snorgrass saw an assignment I made for one of Professor Esquibel's classes in which we created a commercial for a record store. The piece I did for the assignment had a style similar to this, and that's when he asked if I could create something to decorate this wall. Of course, that was over a year and a half ago, but what can I say, you can't rush perfection.

Q: What was your inspiration for the art and color scheme of the wall?

A: There are a lot of different ways to think about how the inspiration came about. Music was an inspiration, in addition to all of the memories that came along with being at Avila for as long as I was. Dr. Snorgrass showed me some photos of a general style he wanted me to use, and I took it from there. Of course, the wall went through three major changes after I started painting, adding on an additional week or so to the estimated completion time. This version only took two hours to complete.

Q: Dr. Snorgrass mentioned you working on the project at 3 a.m., did you do it all in one sitting, or did it take multiple days to complete?

A: The first day I came into work on the wall, not everyone knew what I was doing, so when I came in with a bag of spray paint they were a little skeptical. On top of that, there were a few times when I went to school here that I fumigated the halls because I was spray painting inside. Because of that, I was told I couldn't come in during the day or during class hours, but instead I had to do my work after hours.

I started coming in at 5 p.m. and working until I finished. Dr. Snorgrass was understanding of how artists work and things change, but



he eventually put a deadline on the project. Everything came down to the last day and it required an all-nighter to finish, which I was used to from my college days, anyway.

Q: How long ago did you complete the project?

A: I finished it in late March.

Q: Did you complete the project the first time around, or did you have to paint over it?

A: It changed completely three different times. The image on the wall started off as Dr. Snorgrass blowing a bubble, which spelled out Avila within it. I scratched that concept because people continued

to see it before it was finished, and I didn't like the idea of that. I wanted to surprise everybody.

Q: How many hours did the project take in all?

A: It took over a week to complete. The last day required 10 hours of work to finish.

Q: Do you do any graffiti nowadays?

A: I used to in my younger, skater, graffiti days, but not so much anymore seeing as though it's illegal and I try to avoid doing that sort of thing. Though, after I finished this wall, I was tempted to post it somewhere around town. It may still happen, we'll see...

Q: Did you teach yourself? How did you come about learning how to do graffiti?

A: When I was a freshman in high school, I had a buddy from Oregon move into town who was into tagging and graffiti. He got me started, and then it took off from there.

Q: Do you continue to be creative and find time for art still?

A: Yes, I have my sketchbook and I am trying to improve my portfolio with drawings and whatnot. I did work at a shop for about 6 months that creates t-shirts, so I still make designs for them from time to time. One of the projects they do is to sponsor fighters, so I create t-shirts and posters for that.

A LOOK INTO THE LIFE OF JOSHUA RIVERS

By Jason Johnson

Whether you realize it or not, you have probably met or seen Joshua Rivers walking around campus wearing his red Campus Safety shirt and black hat. He is more than likely the only officer that you have seen, as he only works during the week. But what you may not have known about this particular Campus Safety Officer is that he has a military background. Josh spent five years in the Navy, most of it underwater in a submarine. He doesn't have very many memories of his time there, and the ones he does have are mostly classified.

Josh went to Heartland High School in Belton Missouri (a small private school) where he played basketball, soccer, and threw shot put and discus for the track team. At nineteen, he began participating in the occasional rodeo where his job was to distract bulls from attacking the bull riders. This is known as being a rodeo clown. Josh said, "It was like being a bad comedian, but everyone still laughed."

Around that same time he was diagnosed with an epidural hematoma believed to be caused by a blow to the head at some time during the bull riding event. An epidural hematoma is a blood clot on the out side of the brain. After finding this out, he had to have it removed, a procedure with only a thirty percent survival rate. He was very lucky to make it out alive.

He had 48 staples in his head and a big gash from the surgery where they split it to remove the clot.

Now Josh spends his time as a full-time student majoring in business administration and human resources while working full time for the university as a campus safety officer. In his spare time, he enjoys working on his 1970 Chevy c10 truck and 1978 Kawasaki kz650 motorcycle.

In the future, Josh would like to finish his mechanical endeavors and graduate. Although he gets paid well enough by Avila University, he does not plan to work here his entire life. Josh plans to graduate in May of 2013 where he will leave Avila University with ambitions of being a trophy husband to a supermodel. He claims to be very good at taking care of kids and will drop out of school if his "Dream Girl" comes along.



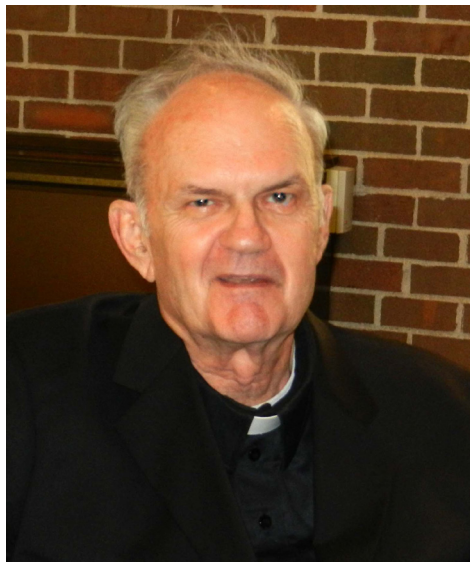
Avila's Chaplain Retires For a Second Time

By John Stoeckl

Father Ernie Gautier entered his final month as Avila University's chaplain where he's spent the past 10 years. Ironically, this will be his 2nd retirement. His first retirement began shortly before being asked to become Avila's chaplain. But in his own way, Fr. Gautier stated that priests never really retire. They just move on to other things.

Coming from humble beginnings, Fr. Gautier seemed to keep that same humble modesty he described of himself years before. He grew up in Kansas City, and only attended St. John's Seminary because it was close to home. His first interest in St. John's was around the 5th grade. He had discovered that St. John's was one of the few places in the neighborhood that had a television. The night watchman caught him breaking in one night to watch television, and recognized him as "the kid down the street." Instead of pressing charges, the watchman showed him the proper way of breaking in without disturbing anything. Fr. Gautier looked reflective as he mentioned this. As a smile crept across his face, he quoted the watchman as saying, "But if anything is amiss, I'm coming to you first!"

After 5 years at St. John's Seminary, he went on to Kendrick College for another 5 years studying philosophy and sociology, the latter of which would propel him into an unusual ministry for a Catholic priest: Prisons. As a diocese priest, Fr. Gautier spent most of his ministry counseling at the Missouri State Penitentiary. He made some connections with people both on death row as well as other sections of the penitentiary, and found many with open hearts and souls when facing death and despair. His greatest accomplishment, he said, was "trying to give people encouragement, understanding their values."



In addition to counseling prisoners, Fr. Gautier became known as the “locopope”, or local pope, as he tended to advocate for the prisoners he came to know both in prison, and after their release, ensuring their fair treatment and care.

After ten years at Avila, Fr. Gautier seems ready to attempt retirement again, leaving the part time duty of Avila’s chaplain. When asked what his plans are from here, he simply

scratched his chin and rambled off a multitude of tasks he still has left on his plate. He plans to volunteer at John Knox Village, a retirement community in Lee’s Summit, Missouri. He also intends to become a chaplain for Hospice care, as well as the chaplain for the Truman Medical Center-East Hospital.

It would seem a busy schedule, but after all, chaplains never retire. They just move on to other things.

That's all we
have folks! Have
a great summer!
We can't wait to
see you in the fall!

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